Permanen t Membership of Security Council

†*394. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL :

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are awa re of the recent report from U.S.A., that though the U.S. Presic lent favours India's becoming a permanent member of the Secu rity Council, the U.N. Resolution on Kashmir is the main obstacl e;

(b) if so, whether Government hav e sought any clarification on the reports;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what is Government's reaction w ith regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The Government has seen news items, refer red to in the Question, based on a remark attributed to President Clinton, in a Press Release by a private foundation in the United States.

(b) and (c) The statement referred to is not an official statement. It is not the policy of Government of India to seek clari fications on non-official press reports.

(d) It is Government's view that based on every objective cri teria, India has a claim to permanent memebership in any expanded United Nationas Security Council.

Cooperative Societies in the Country

*395. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Min ister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cooperative societies in the country;

(b) the demands made by the National Cooperative Union of India to solve their problems; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to strength cooperative mo vement by working on National Cooperative policy ?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.